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NEW WIC Food Packages Coming Federal Fiscal Year 2010!

On December 6, 2007, the "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food packages" Interim Rule was passed. This interim rule implements the first comprehensive revisions to the WIC food packages since 1980. The food packages were developed to better reflect current nutrition science and dietary recommendations, than the current food packages. The new food packages will become effective on **October 1, 2009** for the Arizona WIC Program.

What does this mean? This means that the Arizona WIC Program is diligently working towards the implementation of the new food packages for Arizona WIC participants. The revision of the food packages also means that food instrument messages will change, food items will be added or deleted, minimum stock and variety requirements will change and a new food instrument called a Cash Value Food Instrument (CVFI) will be added for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables.

New Food Items

Food items that will be added to the WIC foods include:

- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- Soft Corn Tortillas (white or yellow)
- Whole Wheat Bread (loaves, buns or rolls)
- Brown Rice
- Soy Milk

- Tofu
- Canned Salmon
- Infant Food Fruits
- Infant Food Meats

WIC Approved Foods and Minimum Stock Requirements

With new food items being added to the food package, there is a change in authorized WIC approved foods and minimum stock and variety requirements. As part of the implementation process, policies, procedures and foods must be approved by the United States Department of Agriculture. Upon receipt of the approval of our authorized food items, the Program will advise all Vendors of the upcoming changes on authorized food items and minimum stock and variety requirements. **However**, there are a few food items where the requirements are known; they include:

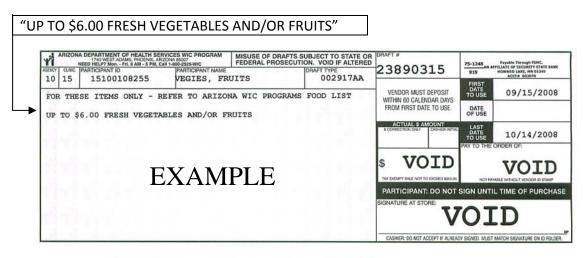
| Item | Quantity | Variety |
|--|---------------|---|
| Fresh Fruits and Vegetables | 32 pounds | 2 types of Fruits: 1 must be bananas and 1 other type AND 2 types of Vegetables |
| Infant Jarred Foods - Fruits and Vegetables 4 oz containers Any Brand, Stage 2 | 64 containers | 2 varieties of Fruit AND 2 varieties of Vegetables |
| Infant Jarred Foods – Meats 2.5 oz containers Any brand, any stage | 31 containers | N/A |



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WIC Cash Value Food Instrument

The Cash Value Food Instrument (CVFI) is similar to the regular WIC food instrument. The only difference is that the CVFI is for a specific dollar amount for Fresh Vegetables and/or Fruits. This is displayed in the large box that has the prescribed food items and quantities to be purchased. Below is an illustration of what the food instrument may look like when finalized. Note the description of the food items that are allowed to be purchased with this Cash Value Food Instrument.



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The CVFI is only valid for up to the amount as printed on the face of the food instrument. The denomination of the CVFI may be \$5.00, \$6.00 or \$8.00. The amount entered on the CVFI must be equal to or less than the maximum amount stated on the CVFI.

The Arizona WIC Program staff is excited about the upcoming changes and looks forward to working with the Vendors and Local Agency staff to implement the new food packages. Please visit the Arizona WIC food package website at http://www.azwic.gov/foodPack.htm or contact the Arizona WIC Program directly at 1-866-229-6561 for updates on the new WIC food packages.

If you have any questions regarding this WIC Alert or need technical assistance, please contact any member of the Vendor Management Team at 1-866-737-3935.

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